

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 11 and add New Claims 13 to 17 as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A composite lined closure for use with a container having a container neck crown, said composite lined closure comprising:

a top having a periphery and an underside;

a skirt depending downward from said periphery, said skirt including an inner surface and a locking bead radially extending inward from said skirt; and

a resilient seal liner extending along said underside, down said inner surface and to said sealing locking bead, said liner having an arcuate inner surface, a lower portion of said arcuate inner surface extending radially inward allowing said arcuate surface to extend inwardly below said container neck crown when said closure is applied to said container.

2. (Original) A closure according to claim 1, wherein said liner is formed of an elastomeric material.

3. (Original) A closure according to claim 2, wherein said liner is injection molded on said inner surface of said skirt.

4. (Currently amended) A closure according to claim 2, wherein said ~~cap~~ closure is injection molded low-density polyethylene.

5. (Original) A closure according to claim 4, wherein said liner is injection molded on said inner surface of said skirt.

6. (Currently amended) A closure according to claim 2 1, wherein said ~~liner includes an arcuate inner surface~~ top further includes a central well and a surface closing said well.

7. (Currently amended) A closure according to claim 6 1, wherein said arcuate inner surface is shaped to conform with the crown of a five-gallon water bottle.

8. (Currently amended) A closure according to claim 6 1, wherein ~~a lower portion of said arcuate inner surface extends radially inward allowing said arcuate surface to extend inwardly below the crown of a five-gallon water bottle when said closure is applied to the five-gallon water bottle~~ said skirt further includes a plurality of gussets that extend at an angle from a lower portion of said skirt upwardly into an adjacent bottom portion of said locking bead.

9. (Original) A closure according to claim 1, wherein said skirt includes a bottom edge, said closure further comprising a tear tab extending downward from said bottom edge and a pair of tear lines extending from said bottom edge, along said skirt and above said locking bead.

10. (Original) A closure according to claim 9, wherein said tear lines begin adjacent said tear tab, extend upwardly and diverge from one another below said locking bead.

11. (Currently amended) A closure according to claim 10, wherein said tear lines form a tear strip therebetween, a lower portion of said tear strip being substantially the width of said tear tab while an upper portion of said ~~tear~~ tear strip is greater than twice the width of said tear tab.

12. (Original) A closure according to claim 11, wherein the width of said upper portion is approximately three times the width of said tear tab.

New Claims:

13. (New) A closure according to claim 1, wherein said liner is formed of a thermoplastic elastomer.

14. (New) A closure according to claim 6, wherein said surface closing said well is a membrane monolithically formed with said liner.

15. (New) A closure according to claim 14, wherein one or more liner legs are provided to allow material forming the liner to run from the liner to the membrane during the molding process.

16. (New) A closure according to claim 14, wherein said membrane forms an inverted cone.

17. (New) A closure according to claim 16, wherein said inverted cone includes one or more radially extending fingers extending from a lower edge of the well and along or through said membrane.